

# **Title 25**

## **Professions and Occupations**

## **TITLE 25. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**

### **IC 25-1-7**

#### **Chapter 7. Investigation and Prosecution of Complaints Concerning Regulated Occupations**

### **IC 25-1-7-1**

#### **Definitions**

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter:

"Board" means the appropriate agency listed in the definition of regulated occupation in this section.

"Director" refers to the director of the division of consumer protection.

"Division" refers to the division of consumer protection, office of the attorney general.

"Licensee" means a person who is:

(1) licensed, certified, or registered by a board listed in this section; and

(2) the subject of a complaint filed with the division.

"Person" means an individual, a partnership, a limited liability company, or a corporation.

"Regulated occupation" means an occupation in which a person is licensed, certified, or registered by one (1) of the following:

(1) Indiana board of accountancy (IC 25-2.1-2-1).

(2) Board of registration for architects and landscape architects (IC 25-4-1-2).

(3) Indiana auctioneer commission (IC 25-6.1-2-1).

(4) State board of barber examiners (IC 25-7-5-1).

(5) State boxing commission (IC 25-9-1).

(6) Board of chiropractic examiners (IC 25-10-1).

(7) State board of cosmetology examiners (IC 25-8-3-1).

(8) State board of dentistry (IC 25-14-1).

(9) State board of funeral and cemetery service (IC 25-15-9).

(10) State board of registration for professional engineers (IC 25-31-1-3).

(11) Indiana state board of health facility administrators (IC 25-19-1).

(12) Medical licensing board of Indiana (IC 25-22.5-2).

(13) Indiana state board of nursing (IC 25-23-1).

(14) Indiana optometry board (IC 25-24).

(15) Indiana board of pharmacy (IC 25-26).

(16) Indiana plumbing commission (IC 25-28.5-1-3).

(17) Board of podiatric medicine (IC 25-29-2-1).

(18) Board of environmental health specialists (IC 25-32-1).

(19) State psychology board (IC 25-33).

(20) Speech-language pathology and audiology board (IC 25-35.6-2).

(21) Indiana real estate commission (IC 25-34.1-2).

(22) Indiana board of veterinary medical examiners (IC 15-5-1.1).

(23) Department of natural resources for purposes of licensing water well drillers under IC 25-39-3.

(24) Respiratory care committee (IC 25-34.5).

(25) Private detectives licensing board (IC 25-30-1-5.1).

(26) Occupational therapy committee (IC 25-23.5).

(27) Social worker, marriage and family therapist, and mental health counselor board (IC 25-23.6).

(28) Real estate appraiser licensure and certification board (IC 25-34.1-8).

(29) State board of registration for land surveyors (IC 25-21.5-2-1).

(30) Physician assistant committee (IC 25-27.5).

(31) Indiana athletic trainers board (IC 25-5.1-2-1).

(32) Indiana dietitians certification board (IC 25-14.5-2-1).

(33) Indiana hypnotist committee (IC 25-20.5-1-7).

(34) Indiana physical therapy committee (IC 25-27).

(35) Manufactured home installer licensing board (IC 25-23.7).

(36) Home inspectors licensing board (IC 25-20.2-3-1).

(37) Any other occupational or professional agency created after June 30, 1981.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by Acts 1982, P.L.113, SEC.12; P.L.137-1985, SEC.7;*

*P.L.246-1985, SEC.15; P.L.169-1985, SEC.29; P.L.149-1987, SEC.21; P.L.257-1987, SEC.15; P.L.242-1989, SEC.6; P.L.234-1989, SEC.3; P.L.238-1989, SEC.6; P.L.1-1990, SEC.249; P.L.186-1990, SEC.5; P.L.183-1991, SEC.3; P.L.23-1991, SEC.9; P.L.48-1991, SEC.16; P.L.1-1992, SEC.130; P.L.30-1993, SEC.5; P.L.227-1993, SEC.5; P.L.213-1993, SEC.2; P.L.8-1993, SEC.371; P.L.33-1993, SEC.11; P.L.1-1994, SEC.120; P.L.124-1994, SEC.4; P.L.234-1995, SEC.3; P.L.175-1997, SEC.5; P.L.147-1997, SEC.8; P.L.84-1998, SEC.3; P.L.24-1999, SEC.4; P.L.82-2000, SEC.4; P.L.162-2002, SEC.4; P.L.145-2003, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-2**

Sec. 2. The office of the attorney general, under the conditions specified in this chapter, may receive, investigate, and prosecute complaints concerning regulated occupations.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-3**

Sec. 3. The division is responsible for the investigation of complaints concerning licensees.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-4**

Sec. 4. All complaints must be written and signed by the complainant and initially filed with the director. Except for employees of the attorney general's office acting in their official capacity, a complaint may be filed by any person, including members of any of the boards listed in section 1 of this chapter.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-5**

Sec. 5. (a) Subsection (b)(1) does not apply to:

(1) a complaint filed by:

(A) a member of any of the boards listed in section 1 of this chapter; or

(B) the health professions bureau; or

(2) a complaint filed under IC 25-1-5-4.

(b) The director has the following duties and powers:

(1) He shall make an initial determination as to the merit of each

complaint. A copy of a complaint having merit shall be submitted to the board having jurisdiction over the licensee's regulated occupation, that board thereby acquiring jurisdiction over the matter except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(2) He shall through any reasonable means notify the licensee of the nature and ramifications of the complaint, and of the duty of the board to attempt to resolve the complaint through negotiation.

(3) He shall report any pertinent information regarding the status of the complaint to the complainant.

(4) He may investigate any written complaint against a licensee. The investigation shall be limited to those areas in which there appears to be a violation of statutes governing the regulated occupation.

(5) He has the power to subpoena witnesses, send for and compel the production of books, records, papers and documents, for the furtherance of any investigation under this chapter. The circuit or superior court located in the county where the subpoena is to be issued shall enforce any such subpoena by the director.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.22-1999, SEC.2.*

**IC 25-1-7-6**

Sec. 6. (a) This section does not apply to:

(1) a complaint filed by:

(A) a member of any of the boards listed in section 1 of this chapter; or

(B) the health professions bureau; or

(2) a complaint filed under IC 25-1-5-4.

(b) If, at any time before the director files his recommendations with the attorney general, the board files with the director a statement signed by the licensee and the complainant that the complaint has been resolved, the director shall not take further action. For a period of thirty (30) days after the director has notified the board and the licensee that a complaint has been filed, the division shall not conduct any investigation or take any action whatsoever, unless requested by the board. If, during the thirty (30) days, the board requests an extension of the thirty (30) day time period, the director shall grant it for a period not exceeding an additional twenty (20) days. If at any time during the thirty (30) day period or an extension thereof, the board notifies the director of its intention not to proceed further to resolve the complaint, the division may proceed immediately under this chapter. For every purpose of this section, a board may designate a board member or staff member to act on behalf of or in the name of the board.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.22-1999, SEC.3.*

**IC 25-1-7-7**

Sec. 7. (a) If there has been no statement of settlement filed by the board under section 6 of this chapter, and if, after conducting an investigation, the director believes that the licensee should be subjected to disciplinary sanctions by the board of his regulated occupation, then he shall so report to the attorney general. Upon receiving the director's report, the attorney general may prosecute the matter, on behalf of the state of Indiana, before the board. The board may designate any person as a hearing officer to hear the matter.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if the board by majority vote so requests, the attorney general shall prosecute the matter before the board, on behalf of the state of Indiana.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-8**

Sec. 8. At the hearing, the board or hearing officer may call witnesses in addition to those presented by the state or the licensee.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4.*

**IC 25-1-7-9**

Sec. 9. A board member is disqualified from any consideration of the case if the board member filed the complaint or participated in negotiations regarding the complaint. The board member is not disqualified from the board's final determination solely because the board member was the hearing officer or determined the complaint and the information pertaining to the complaint was current significant investigative information (as defined by IC 25-23.2-1-5).

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.181-2002, SEC.1.*

**IC 25-1-7-10**

Sec. 10. (a) All complaints and information pertaining to the complaints shall be held in strict confidence until the attorney general files notice with the board of the attorney general's intent to prosecute the licensee.

(b) A person in the employ of the office of attorney general or any of the boards, or any person not a party to the complaint, may not disclose or further a disclosure of information concerning the complaint unless the disclosure is required:

(1) under law; or

(2) for the advancement of an investigation.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), under IC 25-23.2 the state board of nursing may disclose to the coordinated licensure information system (as defined by IC 25-23.2-1-4) complaints and information concerning complaints that the board determines to be current significant investigative information (as defined by IC 25-23.2-1-5).

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.181-2002, SEC.2.*

**IC 25-1-7-11**

Sec. 11. Nothing in this chapter limits the rights of the licensee or the state under IC 4-21.5.

*As added by Acts 1981, P.L.222, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.7-1987, SEC.110.*

**IC 25-1-7-12**

Sec. 12. (a) If:

(1) a fund is created by statute for the payment of an unpaid judgment against a licensee; and

(2) the office of the attorney general is required by statute to provide services to the boards that administer the funds described in subdivision (1);

the office of the attorney general is entitled to reimbursement for the costs incurred in providing the services described in subdivision (2).

(b) If:

(1) more than one (1) fund is established by statute for the payment of an unpaid judgment against a licensee; and

(2) the office of the attorney general is entitled to reimbursement under subsection (a);

the funds for reimbursement shall be taken in equal amounts from each of the funds described in subdivision (1).

*As added by P.L.255-1987, SEC.1.*

**IC 25-1-7-13**

Sec. 13. The office of the attorney general shall submit to each board, at the request of the board, a report that includes the following information concerning that regulated occupation:

(1) The number of complaints filed.

- (2) The number of cases currently under investigation.
- (3) The number of cases closed.
- (4) The number of cases resolved.
- (5) The age of the complaints.

*As added by P.L.177-1997, SEC.1*